

In the claims:

Please amend claim 1 to read as follows:

C 1. (Twice Amended) A strip having a plurality of lamellae, each said lamella being interconnected to the next by a first connecting element, each lamella comprising two opposing lamella legs, each said lamella leg having at least one opening extending transversely to the longitudinal axis of the strip, at least one second connecting element being formed in the area of the longitudinal axis of the strip between the openings in said opposing lamella legs and being inclined relative to said longitudinal axis whereby the second connecting element allows the strip to be compressed or extended relative to the longitudinal axis.